

11 SEP 1999 16:35:42 U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

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SET COMMAND COMPLETED

L1 QUE PLU=ON TRAD### OR MATCH###
L2 QUE PLU=ON EXCHANG#### OR BID####
L3 QUE PLU=ON L1 OR L2
L4 QUE PLU=ON INVEST##### OR STOCK OR BOND
L5 QUE PLU=ON SECURIT##### OR COMMODIT#####
L6 QUE PLU=ON CURRENCY OR NOTE
L7 QUE PLU=ON OPTION OR FUTURE
L8 QUE PLU=ON METAL OR GOLD
L9 QUE PLU=ON GEM OR STONE OR DIAMOND
L10 QUE PLU=ON L4 OR L5 OR L6
L11 QUE PLU=ON L7 OR L8 OR L9
L12 (19067)SEA FILE=USPAT PLU=ON L3 (5A) (L10 OR L11)
L13 QUE PLU=ON DISPLAY OR INDICAT####
L14 (224)SEA FILE=USPAT PLU=ON L12 (5A) L13
L15 QUE PLU=ON OFFER OR BID
L16 QUE PLU=ON BUY#### OR SELL###
L17 (2418)SEA FILE=USPAT PLU=ON L13 (5A) (L15 OR L16)
L18 QUE PLU=ON RULE OR CRITERIA
L19 QUE PLU=ON INSTRUCT#### OR CONDITION
L20 (16634)SEA FILE=USPAT PLU=ON L3 (5A) (L18 OR L19)
L21 (740)SEA FILE=USPAT PLU=ON L13 (5A) L20
L22 1 SEA FILE=USPAT PLU=ON L12 (L) L14 (L) L17 (L) L21

US PAT NO: 5,715,402 [IMAGE AVAILABLE] L22: 1 of 1

DATE ISSUED: Feb. 3, 1998

TITLE: Method and system for matching sellers and buyers of spot metals

INVENTOR: Carl A. Popolo, Carlisle, MA

APPL-NO: 08/554,899

DATE FILED: Nov. 9, 1995

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37

US PAT NO: 5,715,402 [IMAGE AVAILABLE] L22: 1 of 1
DATE ISSUED: Feb. 3, 1998
TITLE: Method and system for matching sellers and buyers of spot metals
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37

ABSTRACT: A system for managing steel inventories in order to reduce the time and expense associated with selling prime and secondary steel that is no longer needed for the original intended application. The system permits sellers to post detailed specification of an item for sale and permits buyers to browse or search the posted inventory to locate items filling specific needs. A buyer may bid on part or all of an item posted and the seller may accept or reject any bid. The buyer and seller engage in an auction by electronic mail and optionally by facsimile. The detailed specifications of the item may be expressed in a variety of unit of measure. Regardless, of unit of measure used by a seller in posting an item, the system performs the necessary conversions to display information to an interested buyer in a unit of measure set by the buyer. A hierarchial menu structure permits ease of use in selecting available options during posting or bidding an item.

DETD(2) Referring now to FIG. 2 of the drawings, a block diagram of the interactive on-line system for ****trading**** steel ****commodities**** is generally ****indicated**** at 10. The system includes a plurality of computers 12 interconnected by a local area network 14 with servers 16.

DETD(23) The . . . the terms and conditions of sale to be applicable to any item posted on the system, or the terms and ****condition**** of purchase when ****bidding**** on an item, as ****indicated**** by the blocks 67 and 68. The appropriate terms and conditions will automatically be entered in the specification sheet when. . .

DETD(28) Selection of Option B of the Main Menu calls the subroutine shown in FIG. 6 which initially ****displays**** a ****SELLERS**** MENU ****indicated**** by the block 110. The ****SELLERS**** MENU permits the user to perform function of interest to a seller of steel by calling subroutines as indicated in. . .

DETD(33) Upon . . . block 120. After completion of the SpecSheet, the user has the option of posting the item, or returning to the ****seller****'s menu, as ****indicated**** at block 122. Posting the item, adds the item to the inventory database stored at the host computer location.

DETD(111) The . . . a lift, the seller might specify the height, width and length of a bundled lift. The seller also enters a ****seller**** internal reference number, as ****indicated**** at 186. The internal reference number identifies the particular unit such as a coil identification number or other mill identification. . . .

DETD(121) At the FOB (Free On Board) entry line the ****seller**** may select "Shipping Point", ****indicating**** the ****buyer**** will pay the freight or "Delivered", ****indicating**** that the ****seller**** will assume the freight charges.

DETD(137) If the user select Option B of the ****SELLERS**** MENU, the subroutine

****indicated**** at block 114 is called and a list of all items previously posted is displayed as indicated at 124. The. . .

DETD(147) Selection of Option C of ****Seller****'s Sub-Menu #1, ****displays**** all posted items ****bid**** upon by other users. The seller may accept or reject a ****bid****, as ****indicated**** at block 144. In this case the system automatically notifies the buyer of the acceptance or rejection by electronic mail, . . .

DETD(148) Selection . . . 132, starting a print job at the remote users site, as indicated at 148 and the subsequent printing of a ****bid**** report as ****indicated**** at 150.

DETD(149) Selection of Option S, of the Seller's SubMenu #1, calls the subroutine 134 which ****displays**** a screen giving the ****seller**** various sort choices as ****indicated**** at block 152 and the index of items is refreshed in accordance with the sort criteria selected, as indicated at. . .

DETD(169) A bid is accepted by highlighting an item that has been ****bid****, and selecting ****option**** A of the ITEMS ****BID**** MENU. Any tentative acceptances on other bids for this same units are automatically rejected. A bid is rejected by highlighting an item that has been ****bid****, and selecting ****option**** B of the ITEMS ****BID**** MENU. The system sends an electronic mail message to the bidder declining the offer to purchase.

DETD(170) ****Option**** C of the ITEMS ****BID**** MENU should be selected if the seller has already negotiated the sale of this unit with the ****bidder**** shown. Selecting this ****option**** will mark the unit sold and it's quantity will be removed from the Available Quantity for the item that shows. . .

DETD(171) Selecting ****Option**** D of the ITEMS ****BID**** MENU clears the status field in the main Inventory panel as well as the SpecSheet.

DETD(172) ****Option**** E of the ITEMS ****BID**** MENU should be selected to input information about a bid that was not received through the on-line system. If, for. . .

DETD(173) Selecting ****Option**** P of the ITEMS ****BID**** MENU calls the print subroutine, ****indicated**** at block 132 which prints a report locally of bids on the selected items.

DETD(177) Selection of Option A at the Main Menu calls the subroutine 64, which initially ****displays**** the ****Buyers**** Menu ****indicated**** at 210 in FIG. 8. The Buyers Menu includes the following options:

DETD(215) By selecting Option B of the BUYERS SUB-MENU #2, a buyer may revise a previous ****bid****, not yet accepted, as ****indicated**** in block 230. The revision process involve editing the data originally entered during the bid process and then posting the. . .

DETD(231) After setting a gauge range and width as indicated in block 246, to search may be limited to one preferred ****seller**** or include all ****sellers****, as ****indicated**** at block 248. After completing this criteria set, the search may be initiated using one or more of the set. . .

11/9/9 (Item 1 from file: 16)

DIALOG(R)File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R) (c) 2000 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

07231947 Supplier Number: 61579458 (THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)

WORLD BANK PROCUREMENT - INDIA, POWER (2).

AsiaPulse News, p0004

April 18, 2000

Language: English Record Type: Fulltext

Document Type: Newswire; Trade

Word Count: 761

TEXT:

(Part 2 of 2 parts)

Bid submission: 1 July 2000 at 1400 hours

Bid opening: 1 July 2000 at 1500 hours

Bidding document sale date: 15 May 2000

Sl. No. 15; Package No. WB/APTRANSCO/TR/RS-55

Shunt capacitor banks with associated equipment; bid security : Rs 1,381,200

- 130 MVAR capacitor Banks with associated equipment - 33 kV 5

MVAR (26)

- Capacitor banks with associated equipment - 132 kV 30 MVAR (6)

Bid submission: 3 July 2000 at 1400 hours

Bid opening: 3 July 2000 at 1500 hours

Bidding document sale date: 17 May 2000

Sl. No. 16; Package No. WB/APTRANSCO/CETT/RS-56

PLCC indoor and power plant equipment

* Lot - 1: PLCC indoor equipment; bid security : Rs 1,123,456

- Twin channel PLCC terminals (58)

- Single channel PLCC terminals (90)

- Protection couplers (38)

- VFT Modules (38)

- EPAXs (35)

- Push button telephones (350)

- 6p telephone cable (11.7 km)

- 1p telephone cable (18.5 km)

- Spares

* Lot - 2: power plant equipment; bid security : Rs 125,530

- 48V/50 A Battery charger (9 sets)

- 48V/35A Battery charger (17 sets)

- 48V/150AH Battery set (32 sets)

- 48V/250AH Battery set (19 sets)

- 48V/400AH Battery set (5 sets)

- 16 sq. mm battery cable (3.6 km)

Bid submission: 4 July 2000 at 1400 hours

Bid opening: 4 July 2000 at 1500 hours
 Bidding document sale date: 18 May 2000
 Sl. No. 17; Package No. WB/APTRANSCO/CETT/RS-57
 PLCC-outdoor equipment
 * Lot-1; bid security : Rs 534,200
 - Wave traps 800 A/1mH (76)
 - Phase to phase coupling units (84)
 - Coaxial cable (37 km)
 * Lot II air conditioners
 - 1.5 ton air conditioning units along with 4 kVA
 - Stabilizers (61 sets); bid security : Rs 40,260
 Bid submission: 5 July 2000 at 1400 hours
 Bid opening: 5 July 2000 at 1500 hours
 Bidding document sale date: 18 May 2000
 Sl. No. 18; Package No. WB/APTRANSCO/CETT/RS-58
 Electronic testing instruments ; bid security : Rs 122,268
 - Selective level meters (9)
 - Selective lever oscillators (9)
 - 4 1/2 digit digital multi meters (9)
 - Digital frequency counters (9)
 - Spectrum analyzers (2)
 Bid submission: 6 July 2000 at 1400 hours
 Bid opening: 6 July 2000 at 1500 hours
 Bidding document sale date: 19 May 2000
 Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the
 bidding documents at the Office of the Chief Engineer/Transmission, APTRANSCO (address
 below)
 A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on
 submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee
 of US\$ 70 or Rs 3,000 per each package on all working days from 1100 to 1400 hours. The
 payment toward the cost of the bidding documents may be made by banker's check or demand
 draft in favor of the Pay Officer, APTRANSCO, Vidyut Soudha, Hyderabad-500 082, Andhra
 Pradesh, India, payable at Hyderabad. Payment in any other form, i.e., by checks, money orders
 etc., will not be accepted. The bid documents will be sent by speed post for outstation bidders but
 APTRANSCO will not be responsible for delays in delivery, if any. The bid documents will be
 available for sale from the dates as indicated .
 The instructions to bidders and general conditions of contract contained in the bidding
 documents comply with the World Bank's Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.
 Bids must be addressed and delivered to the Superintending Engineer/Purchases (Room
 No. 120, 1st Floor at the address below) on or before the time and date indicated against each
 package and must be accompanied by bid security as indicated against each package/lot in the
 currency of the bid or the equivalent in US dollars.
 Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend at the

75 time and date as indicated against each package at the Office of the Chief Engineer, Transmission,
76 APTRANSCO, for packages Sl. Nos. from 1 to 15 (address below) and at the office of the Chief
77 Engineer, Telecom (APTRANSCO, Vidyut Soudha, Hyderabad, tel: (91-40) 331-7651,
78 339-6000, ext. 3364/3425), for packages Sl. Nos. 16, 17 and 18.

79 Domestic preference in the comparison and evaluation of bids: The purchaser will grant a
80 margin of preference to goods manufactured in the purchaser's country in accordance with the
81 procedures outlined in the bidding documents.

82 Contact:

83 Chief Engineer/Transmission APTRANSCO Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh
84 Limited

85 Room No. 304, 'A' Block,

86 Vidyut Soudha Hyderabad - 500 082, India

87 Tel: (91-40) 331-7637, 339-6000, ext.3394/3440/3227

88 Fax: (91-40) 331-7637, 331-7651

89 Tlx: HD-6318 IN

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11/9/6 (Item 4 from file: 15)

DIALOG(R)File 15:ABI/Inform(R) (c) 2000 Bell & Howell. All rts. reserv.

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A revolution in equities

Fairlamb, David

Institutional Investor v29n11 PP: 132-135 Nov 1995

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LENGTH: 2 Pages WORD COUNT: 1133

1 ABSTRACT: Though dealing costs will probably fall, analysts also predict that the new
2 arrival of Tradepoint Investment Exchange will sap London Stock Exchange (LSE) revenues,
3 undermine its quote-driven system, blunt the competitiveness of market makers and lead to the
4 fragmentation of Britain's L1.3 trillion stock market. In contrast to the LSE, Tradepoint is based
5 on an order-driven trading system, whereby subscribers advertise onscreen the prices at which
6 they are looking to deal. It all seems so much quicker, simpler and more transparent than going
7 through the LSE. But it is the prospect of finer pricing that has encouraged a large number of
8 institutional investors to sign up for Tradepoint.

9 TEXT: The September launch of Tradepoint Investment Exchange is giving the London
10 Stock Exchange its first real taste of domestic competition since it established more than 200
11 years ago.

12 Though dealing costs will probably fall, analysts also predict that the new arrival will sap
13 LSE revenues (more than L190 million [300 million] last year), undermine its quote-driven
14 system, blunt the competitiveness of market makers' and lead to the fragmentation of Britain's
15 L1.3 trillion (by capitalization) stock market. Increasing the likelihood of radical change are: new
16 rules taking effect in January that call for the speedier disclosure of large trades; Merrill Lynch &
17 Co.'s July acquisition of leading City market maker Smith New Court; and plans by U.S. discount
18 brokerage Charles Schwab Corp. to offer customers of British subsidiary ShareLink the
19 opportunity to trade shares over the Internet through a joint venture with Cambridge-based
20 Electronic Share Information.

21 In contrast to the LSE, Tradepoint is based on an order-driven trading system, whereby
22 subscribers advertise onscreen the prices at which they are looking to deal. A subscriber who
23 wants to accept the offer can do so immediately, anonymously -- ensuring that competitors are
24 not given commercially sensitive information -- and directly through a PC. All trades are published
25 on the screen as soon as they happen.

26 It all seems so much quicker, simpler and more transparent than going through the LSE,
27 whose quote-driver system calls for market makers -- firms that provide liquidity to the market by
28 committing their capital to buying and selling shares under all market conditions -- to display their
29 bid and offer prices on Stock Exchange Automated Quotations, the exchange's electronic bulletin

board. Interested investors then telephone market makers to negotiate details and strike a bargain. Large deals are not published for 90 minutes (within 60 minutes starting in January) to protect market makers' books from competitors' scrutiny.

Tradepoint will also save investors money, claims Michale Waller-Bridge, its chief executive. The LSE's quote driven system generates wider spreads than its order-driven rival, he points out, because market makers must be compensated for risking their capital. A recent study by Birinyi and Associates, a Connecticut consulting firm, seems to confirm that view. It shows that dealing spreads on the LSE are among the widest in the world: The median spread for the most-liquid shares is 1.44 percent of the purchase price in London, compared with 0.32 percent on the New York Stock Exchange and 0.30 percent on the Paris bourse.

Its the prospect of finer pricing that has encouraged a large number of institutional investors -- they include Mercury Asset Management and Hermes Investment Management -- to sign up for Tradepoint. In fact, the new exchange boasts more than 50 subscribers, including five of the six largest market makers (who say they have primarily joined to follow price movements), and a rash of brokers. To the LSE's embarrassment, Cazenove & Co., whose former senior partner, John Kemp-Welch, is now LSE chairman, is among them.

Analysts also reckon that Tradepoint will prove more attractive to foreign investors, who prefer the order-driven system. And by producing real and immediate prices (something that the quote-driven system does not do), it will spur the development of the sluggish singe-equity options market on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange .

Tradepoint could turn out to be a damp squib, of course, just as the Ariel system that was also meant to break the LSE's monopoly did in the 1970s. Analysts also predict that most institutions will still find the quote-driven market-making system better for large deals, even in liquid stocks. "They'll end up using Tradepoint mostly for less-liquid shares," suggests one.

But if, as seems likely, Tradepoint really does take off -- its aim is to attract 2 percent of U.K. share turnover within its first 18 months and 10 percent after five years -- it will profoundly affect the structure of the market. For a start, it could lead to the market's fragmentation, with a consequently negative impact on liquidity. It might even force the demise of the quote-driven system, which most analysts say has served the City well. LSE chief executive Michael Lawrence is quick to point out that its system ensures that the stock of listed companies can be traded under all market conditions . The LSE was the only major international exchange to trade through the crash of October 1987.

Defenders of the quote-driver system also argue that it has helped to fund a great deal of high-quality research, which has benefited the market immensely. "We've all grown up on the quote-drive system, and that's what we'd continue with if we had the preference," says Kleinwort Benson Group chairman Lord Rockley.

The tide of opinion, however, is moving in the opposite-direction. "The fact is that the order-driven system provides greater flexibility," says Krishna Patel, an executive director at James Capel, & Co, The head of one U.S. investment bank's European operation gives the quote-driven system "two years, max." And the word in the City is that Smith New Court, previously a staunch supporter of the status quo, will favor change under its new owner, Lawrence isn't fazed by that prospect. The LSE initially went out of its way to make life difficult for Tradepoint (by refusing to ditch the rule barring members from quoting on other systems

73 prices that are better the ones displayed on the LSE's own) and for ShareLink (by temporarily
74 withholding price data. Now it has relented on both fronts. In any case, points out Lawrence, the
75 LSE is developing a new state-of-the-art system, which should be ready next August and is
76 capable of being order-driven as well as quote-driven. (Despite last year's embarrassment over
77 Taurus, the new settlement system that ended up being junked, the LSE is confident that this
78 project will be on time.) "We could even have both systems working alongside each other," says
79 Lawrence.

80 If the quote-driven system does go, market making could well go with it, because it would
81 be much more difficult for market makers to generate the spreads they need to justify risking their
82 own capital and to pay for the large, well-remunerated staffs they require to function effectively.
83 Market makers are already under a degree of scrutiny, because some customers suspect them of
84 dealing only when it is to their advantage and of using the privileges they enjoy -- exemption from
85 stamp duty, the right to borrow shares to meet demand and the permission to temporarily conceal
86 information about large transaction -- to cover non-market-making activities, such as trading on
87 their own accounts. If some of their privileges are eroded, several market makers might be
88 tempted to throw in the towel. At the very least they are likely to reduce their spreads to compete
89 with Tradepoint. And that would hit their profits -- hard.

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